



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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TAC Minutes, 03/09/2011

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 3/9/11, 7:15 pm to 9:50 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, John Lentz, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Laura Wiener.

Missing Members and Associates: Jean Clark, Jessica French, Jonathan Janik, Steve Kurland, Andy Machado, Corey Rateau, Ed Starr, Richard Turcotte.

Visitors Present: none.

- Public Comments. None.
- Administration.
 - Minutes of 2/9/11 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
- Town Issues and Activities. There has been some forward movement on bus shelters. Town is waiting for a draft agreement from Cemusa. A Public Hearing has been scheduled by the Highway Division on a widening at the intersection of Route 16 and Route 2 westbound. Hearing is on 3/31. The developer of the Brigham's site is coming back to the ARB for one more special permit regarding a change to their parking plan, increasing the number of compact car parking spaces. Mike reported that his department is filling potholes left by the winter storms. Forest St. reconstruction requires additional design coordination with the MWRA to proceed.~~The~Town's 2011 Paving Plan is under development. The Gas Co. wants to replace 18,000 feet of gas pipe this year.
- Oakland/Gray. Elisabeth presented a single recommended configuration for the intersection, which included curb extensions to narrow Gray at corner; crosswalks and ramps on Oakland and Gray; Crosswalk sign assemblies on Oakland, crosswalk advance warning signs on Oakland, sidewalk installation on Gray between Oakland and Gray Circle; removal of stop sign on left side of Gray. Mike said he needed to check on DPW budget to see when this could be accomplished. Elisabeth said we could make a recommendation and then move on, even if it was not accomplished for a little while. Jeff added that it could possibly be done under Safe Routes to Schools (federal funding). Mike is concerned about fire trucks making the turn from Oakland onto Gray. Elisabeth will start to vet it with the neighbors, and Mike will run it by the Fire Chief.
- Hardy School. Scott reported on recommendations creating a school zone. Motion to approve recommendations 1 and 2—Fix typo on the parking signs on Chandler, and establish a school zone around the school with appropriate signage (Town can designate a school zone). Voted unanimously. More field work is needed on recs. 3-5. A final recommendation will go to Selectmen when all items are voted. Proposed signage replaces some of existing signage.

- Elementary Schools. No progress.
- Bates Road. Howard reported looking at available speed and traffic count data on Bates Road. Southbound consistently shows higher speeds. Howard suggested looking at the signal timing at Bates and Broadway. Scott noted that we might investigate whether Broadway light and proposed Mass. Ave. light could be timed to slow traffic down. More analysis to come.
- Advocate and Transportation. Scott reported that ABAC is also interested in providing regular columns to the Advocate, as part of a monthly transportation column, with contributions from TAC, ABAC, and Walking in Arlington. A working group from each committee should be established, with Elisabeth, Jonathan and Scott from TAC.
- Battle Road Scenic Byway. Elisabeth will attend upcoming meeting and report back to TAC.
- CLAMP. Continuing discussions with 2 designers. Trying to define the scope better. Mike and Laura will meet with MassDOT to move project forward.
- Downing Square. Town comments on 1st draft recommendations from designer.
- Mass. Ave. Public hearing should be scheduled imminently, and expected to be held in April.
- Green Line Extension. Richard, Howard, Ed and Laura attended a meeting in Medford regarding building the Green Line to Mystic Valley Parkway. Goal of the meeting was to remove the obstacles to extending it to that area. This meeting was for input only. Next meeting is March 30.
- Lowell St. Traffic Calming. Elisabeth reviewed the recommendations for traffic calming medians near the Reservoir on Lowell Street. Mike is concerned about snow removal if crosswalks go through raised medians. Suggested removing short side of median, installing radar speed signs or rumble strips instead.
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Meeting Materials:

- Ed's meeting packet: Agenda, 3/9/11; Status of Outstanding Actions, 3/9/11; Draft Actions from 2/9 TAC Meeting; Talking points on Green Line Extension; Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, 3/9/11; BoS/ARB Project Status, 3/9/11;
- Minutes of 2/9/11;
- Battle Road Scenic Byway: Road to Revolutions", November 8, 2010;
- Bates Road TAC—March 9, 2011 (traffic counts);
- Draft Lowell Street Traffic Calming Proposal from October 20, 2008;
- Oakland Ave., Gray St. & Cliff St. Intersection, dated March 9, 2011;
- Hardy School Recommendations, March, 2011;